

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-40 (canceled).

41. (Currently Amended) A system for remote communication, comprising:

at least one host server that integrates data received from at least one of a plurality of client computers with a first signal to provide a signal for broadcasting such that the signal is capable of being received by the plurality of client computers; and

from among said plurality of client computers, at least one client computer that receives the broadcast signal and separates the integrated data from the signal.

42. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41, wherein each client computer includes a tuner card for separating the integrated data from the signal.

43. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41, wherein each client computer includes a user interface for presenting the data integrated with the first signal and prompting a user to provide data to be sent to the host server.

44. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 43, wherein at least a portion of the data received by the host server from a client computer is addressed to another client computer.

45. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41, wherein the client computer comprises a display device for presenting information signals representing said integrated data.

46. (Withdrawn) A method of providing online services between a host and a plurality of client facilities, the method comprising:

a television compatible signal to the plurality of client facilities;

intermittently receiving data from at least one of the plurality of client facilities;

and

integrating at least a portion of the received data together with the television compatible signal for transmission.

47. (Withdrawn) A method for integrating a continuous signal of images and sounds with a data signal as a television compatible signal in a host server communicably connected to a broadcast facility that broadcasts the television compatible signal, the method comprising:

receiving data defining actions of at least one of a plurality of client facilities; and

combining the received data defining actions as at least a part of the television compatible signal.

48. (Withdrawn) An interactive television-computer apparatus, comprising:

a television tuner component for receiving a television compatible signal and separating the television compatible signal into a video signal for display on a display device, an audio signal for transmission to an audio output device, and a data signal, at

least part of the data signal being sent for display on the display device; and
a networking device for transmitting data to a host-broadcasting facility.

49. (Withdrawn) A television-computer apparatus employing a user interface for presenting video and data received from an integrated television signal while at the same time being used for inputting data that is sent to a host facility by means of a network connection.

50. (Withdrawn) A method for remotely controlling display of data on a display device of a computer, the method comprising:
generating display control data to at least one client computer;
transmitting the display control data to a host server; and
sending the display control data from the host server to at least one other client computer as part of a television signal for controlling display of data.

51. (Withdrawn) A single integrated television tuner/data decoding device that is attachable to a computer and is configured to receive a television compatible signal, separating audiovisual data and other display data from the television compatible broadcast signal.

52. (Withdrawn) The television tuner/data decoding device of claim 51 configured as a single circuit card that attaches to an expansion slot of the computer.

53. (Withdrawn) The television tuner/data decoder device of claim 51 configured

as an external box connected to the computer.

54. (Withdrawn) A system comprising:

a single integrated television tuner/data device that is attachable to a computer and configured to receive a television compatible signal, separating audiovisual data and other display data from the television compatible signal,

a user interface for displaying the data received from the television compatible signal and for receiving input data for transmission to a communication server.

55. (Withdrawn) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a remote communication system to perform a method, the remote communication system having at least one host server and a plurality of client computers, the method comprising the steps of:

integrating data received by the host server from at least one of the plurality of client computers with a television signal;

transmitting from the host server the integrated television signal to at least one of the plurality of client computers;

receiving the broadcast integrated television signal by at least one of the client computers; and

separating the integrated television signal into video and data.

56. (Withdrawn) The computer-readable medium of claim 55, wherein the method further comprises the step of:

providing on the client computer a user interface for presenting the video and

data, and receiving input data to be sent to the host server.

57. (Withdrawn) The computer-readable medium of claim 55, wherein the client computer comprises a display device, and wherein the separating step includes:
displaying a representation of the television signal and the data on the display device.

58. (Withdrawn) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling communication within a communication system to provide on-line services between a host and a plurality of client facilities in the communication system in accordance with a method, the method comprising:

transmitting a television compatible signal to the plurality of client facilities;
intermittently receiving data from at least one of the plurality of client facilities;
and
integrating at least a portion of the received data together with the television compatible signal for transmission.

59. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for integrating a continuous signal of images and sounds with a data signal as a signal in a host server communicably connected to a broadcasting facility that transmits the signal such that the signal is capable of being received by a plurality of client facilities, the instructions operative in implementing a method comprising:

receiving data defining actions of at least one of the plurality of client facilities;
and

combining the received data defining actions as at least a part of the signal that
is transmitted by the broadcasting facility.

60. (Withdrawn) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for displaying data on a display device of a computer in accordance with a method, the method comprising:

generating display control data to at least one client computer;
transmitting the display control data to a host server; and sending the display control data from the host server to at least one other client computer as part of a television signal for controlling display of data.

61. (Withdrawn) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for operating a computer in accordance with a method, the method comprising:

presenting a user interface for displaying data received from a television compatible signal; and
receiving input data by means of the user interface for transmission via a network connection.

62. (Currently Amended) A system for remote communication between a host facility and remote clients, the system comprising:

a host facility that combines an audiovisual data stream with ~~other~~ data originating at the host or with data received from another computer electronically connected to the host, or with both data originating at the host and data received from another computer electronically connected to the host, and which causes the combined

signal to be sent for distribution by means of via a broadcast transmission signal, and
clients client computers that receive data from the broadcasted broadcast signal
and which intermittently transmit data to the host, the transmitted data being provided to
the host such that the clients are capable of specifying at least a portion of the
transmitted data as being intended for incorporation into the broadcast signal.

63. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 62, wherein the audio-visual stream represents an instructional presentation.

64. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 62, wherein data broadcasted included in the signal broadcast by the host consists at least in part of downloads requested by the remote clients.

65 (Currently Amended) The system of claim 62, wherein data received by at least one of the clients is represented in a chat feature in real time.

66. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 62, wherein data received by at least one of the client clients is presented as a text message.

67. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 62, wherein data received by at least one of the clients the client is graphically represented as handwriting.

68. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 62, wherein data received by at least one of the client clients is represented as audio and/or or as video or as both

audio and video.

69. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 62, wherein video and data included in the broadcast signal received by the clients is simultaneously displayed on the same display device of at least one of the client clients.

70. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 62, wherein the at least one of the clients client computer simultaneously receives the broadcasted data while sending data to the host.

71. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 62, wherein client computers clients are capable of controlling in real time, by means of data sent via the broadcast signal, display data displayed on other remote clients in real time by means of data sent with the broadcasted combined signal.

72. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 62, wherein the combined signal broadcasted by the host is used to deliver e-mail.

73. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62, wherein the data received by the client generates a graphical representation on the display device of the client.

74. (Withdrawn) A host facility for transmitting online service data among remote computers wherein online service data is received by a host computer by means of an

electronic connection generated by a remote computer and sent by means of a broadcast signal that is capable of simultaneously carrying audiovisual and other data information.

75. (Withdrawn) A client computer for receiving data from an online service wherein the client receives data transmitted from a host computer by means of a broadcast signal and sends data to the host by means of an electronic connection.

76. (Withdrawn) An electronic information service, comprising:

- a host system that transmits data to a set of client facilities using a high bandwidth point-to-multipoint broadcast signal;
- each of the client facilities transmits data to the host system using a network connection; and
- each of the client facilities receives the broadcast signal and retains only data from the broadcast signal intended for the particular client facility.

77. (Withdrawn) A computer readable medium containing instructions for causing a computer to perform a method for handling electronic information for a user, the method comprising the steps of:

- transmitting data to a host system using a network connection;
- receiving a broadcast signal from the host system, which transmits data to a set of computers using a high bandwidth point-to-multipoint broadcast signal; and
- retaining from the broadcast signal only data intended for the computer user.

78. (Previously Presented) A method for providing remote communication between a host and a plurality of client devices, each of the client devices comprising a processor that executes a module that is operative in interfacing with the user to acquire information input by the user and in transferring data to the host, the method comprising:

receiving at the host data from at least one of said plurality of client devices that each employ its corresponding said module to send data in response to user input acquired by the module; and

providing at the host at least a portion of the received data into a signal provided for transmission to the plurality of client devices as a broadcast signal.

79. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 78, wherein said user input is capable of being initiated by the user independent of, and not in response to, signals received from the host.

80. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 78, wherein said broadcast signal is a television compatible signal.

81. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 78, wherein the at least a portion of the received data that is provided into the signal provided for transmission is addressed to a specific one or more of said plurality of client devices.

82. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 81, wherein the received data from the at least one of said plurality of client devices is selectively addressed

to a specific one or more of the other of said plurality of client devices that receive the transmission of said broadcast signal.

83. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 81, wherein the received data from the at least one of said plurality of client devices is from a given one of said plurality of client devices, and the at least a portion of the received data is selectively addressed only to said given one of said plurality of client devices that receive the transmission of said broadcast signal.

84. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 78, wherein the received data from the at least one of said plurality of client devices represents information intended for all of said plurality of client devices that receive the transmission of said broadcast signal.

85. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 78, wherein said signal provided for transmission includes one of or both (i) first data defining information intended for all of the plurality of client devices and/or and (ii) second data defining information specific to selected one or more client devices of the plurality of client devices.

86. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 78, wherein the method is implemented as a bulletin board system or on-line communication service between the host and the plurality of client devices.

87. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 78, wherein the method is implemented as a remote educational system.

88. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 78, further comprising, by operation of the host, providing additional data into said signal such that the signal includes the at least a portion of the received data and the additional data, wherein the additional data is acquired from a source other than said plurality of client devices.

89. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 88, wherein the additional data represents an educational presentation by an instructor.

90. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 88, wherein the additional data represents control instructions for at least one of the plurality of client devices.

91. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 88, wherein the additional data is recorded information accessed by the host.

92. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 78, wherein the at least a portion of the received data controls information displayed on at least one display device respectively associated with at least one of the other plurality of client devices.

93. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 78, wherein the host receives data from the plurality of client devices via a public network or via a private network or via a private network and a public network.

94. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 78, wherein the signal is provided for transmission by broadcast through the atmosphere ~~or over a cable network.~~

95. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 78, wherein the signal is provided for transmission as a high bandwidth broadcast signal, and the data from the at least one of said plurality of client devices is intermittently received via a network having a bandwidth lower than the high bandwidth broadcast signal.

96. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 78, wherein said signal includes video information for display at one or more of the plurality of client devices.

97. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 78, wherein the signal is a television compatible signal that includes a video signal having a vertical blanking interval into which said at least a portion of the received data is integrated.

98. (Previously Presented) The method according to claims 78, wherein each of the plurality of client devices receives the transmission and extracts from the signal only any data intended for the particular client device and any data intended therefor.

99. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 78, wherein the broadcast signal is a high bandwidth point to multipoint signal.

100. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for implementing the method of claim 78.

101. (Previously Presented) A system comprising at least one processor that implements the method of claim 78.

102. (Previously Presented) A host system for remote communication with a plurality of client devices that each comprise a processor that executes a module that is operative in interfacing with a user to acquire information input by the user and in transferring to the host system data representative of the information input by the user, the host system comprising at least one processor that receives from at least one of said plurality of client devices data representative of the information input by the user, and that is operative in providing at least a portion of the received data into a signal provided for transmission to the plurality of client devices as a broadcast signal.

103. (Currently Amended) The host system according to claim 102, wherein the host system comprises at least one server that includes the at least one processor of the host system is embodied in at least one server of said host.

104. (Previously Presented) The host system according to claim 102, wherein the received data from the at least one of said plurality of client devices is selectively addressed to a specific one or more client devices of said plurality of client devices that receive the transmission of said broadcast signal.

105. (Previously Presented) The host system according to claim 104, wherein the received data from the at least one of said plurality of client devices is from a given one of said plurality of client devices, and the at least a portion of the received data is selectively addressed only to said given one of said plurality of client devices that receive the transmission of said broadcast signal.

106. (Previously Presented) The host system according to claim 102, wherein the received data from the at least one of said plurality of client devices represents information intended for all of said plurality of client devices that receive the transmission of said broadcast signal.

107. (Currently Amended) The host system according to claim 102, wherein said signal includes one of or both (i) first data defining information intended for all of the plurality of client devices and/or and (ii) second data defining information specific to selected one or more client devices of the plurality of client devices.

108. (Currently Amended) The host system according to claim 102, wherein the host system is implemented as a bulletin board system or an on-line communication service between the host system and the plurality of client devices.

109. (Previously Presented) The host system according to claim 102, wherein the host system is implemented as a remote educational system.

110. (Previously Presented) The host system according to claim 102, wherein said at least one processor is operative in providing additional data into said signal, wherein the additional data is acquired from a source other than said plurality of client devices.

111. (Previously Presented) The host system according to claim 110, wherein the additional data represents an educational presentation by an instructor.

112. (Previously Presented) The host system according to claim 110, wherein the additional data represents control instructions for at least one of the plurality of client devices.

113. (Previously Presented) The host system according to claim 102, wherein the at least a portion of the received data controls information displayed on at least one display device respectively associated with at least one of the other plurality of client devices.

114. (Currently Amended) The host system according to claim 102, wherein the host system receives the data from the at least one of said plurality of client devices via a network, the network being a public network or a private network or including a

private network and a public network.

115. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 114, wherein the broadcast signal has a bandwidth greater than the bandwidth for receiving data from a given one of the plurality of client devices via the ~~public or private~~ network.

116. (Previously Presented) The host system of claim 102, wherein the broadcast signal is a high bandwidth point to multipoint signal.

117. (Previously Presented) The host system according to claim 102, wherein the signal includes a video signal with which said at least a portion of the received data is combined.

118. (Previously Presented) The system according to claims 102, wherein each of the plurality of client devices receives the transmission of the broadcast signal and extracts from the signal only any data intended therefor.

119. (Currently Amended) A processor-implemented method for facilitating remote communication of a device with a host system, the method comprising:

providing an interface operative in acquiring information input by a user, and operative in displaying information transmitted by said host system as a broadcast signal; and

transferring to the host system via a network connection information representative of information input by the user via the user interface, the transferred

information being provided to the host system such that at least a portion of the transferred information is capable of being specified for incorporation into the broadcast signal transmitted by the host system.

120. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 420 119, further comprising processing the broadcast signal transmitted by said host system to extract information intended for the device only.

121. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 421 120, wherein the information intended for the device only is received from said host system in response to information input by the user via the user interface.

122. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 421 120, wherein the information intended for the device only is communicated to the host system via a network connection by another device associated with another user.

123. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 420 119, wherein the broadcast signal includes common information for display by the device in communication with said host system.

124. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 420 119, wherein the information transferred to the host system via the network connection in response to information input by the user via the user interface is information selectively addressed by the user for a specified one or more users associated with a

respective one or more devices communicably connected to the host system.

125. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 120 119, wherein the information transferred to the host system via the network connection in response to information input by the user via the user interface is information intended for all users associated with a respective devices to which the broadcast signal is transmitted.

126. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 120 119, wherein the broadcast signal is a high bandwidth point to multipoint signal.

127. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium comprising instructions for implementing the method of claim 120 119.

128. (Currently Amended) A device comprising a processor that implements the method of claim 120 119.

129. (Previously Presented) An interactive system for remote communication, the system comprising:

a host facility that integrates a signal capable of containing images and audio with a separate data signal to generate a combined signal provided for transmission as a broadcast signal;

a plurality of remote computers each capable of receiving the broadcast signal and each having a network interface device to selectively send data to the host

facility via a network; and

wherein the host facility receives via the network data defining actions from at least one of the plurality of computers and includes at least a portion of the received data as the separate data in the combined signal that is provided for transmission as the broadcast signal.

130. (Previously Presented) A method for providing remote communication between a host and a plurality of client facilities, the method comprising:

broadcasting a signal to the plurality of client facilities, the signal capable of containing first data defining information intended for all of the plurality of client facilities and capable of containing second data defining information specific to selected ones of the plurality of client facilities;

intermittently receiving data from at least one of the plurality of client facilities defining actions at said client facilities; and

selectively integrating at least a portion of the received data into the signal as one of the first data or the second data for transmission to the plurality of client facilities.

131. (New) The method according to claim 86, wherein the method is implemented as an on-line communication service between the host and the plurality of client devices.

132. (New) The method according to claim 94, wherein the signal is provided for transmission by broadcast over a cable network.

133. (New) The host system according to claim 108, wherein the host system is implemented as an on-line communication service between the host system and the plurality of client devices.
134. (New) The system of claim 44, wherein the addressing is specified by information provided in the data received by the host server from the client computer.
135. (New) The computer-readable medium according to claim 59, wherein the method includes the capability of selectively addressing the received data defining actions of at least one of the plurality of client facilities to a specific one or more of the plurality of client facilities based on information provided in the received data.
136. (New) The system according to claim 62, wherein the transmitted data is provided to the host such that the clients are capable of selectively addressing the at least a portion of the transmitted data to a specific one or more of the clients that are capable of receiving the broadcast signal.
137. (New) The method according to claim 81, wherein the addressing is specified according to information included in the corresponding data received by the host from the corresponding at least one of said plurality of client devices.
138. (New) The method according to claim 104, wherein the addressing is specified

according to information included in the corresponding data received by the host from the corresponding at least one of said plurality of client devices.